

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ SPEAKS OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: LIMA 11322

1. ON DECEMBER 16 PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ SPOKE TO THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF THE PERUVIAN WAR COLLEGE (CAEM) AND THE SUPERIOR WAR SCHOOLS. IN A FORCEFUL AND EVEN EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION MORALES BERMUDEZ EMPHATICALLY DECLARED THAT "PERUVIAN POLICY IS A POLICY OF PEACE". "BECAUSE (PERU) IS AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY, IT CANNOT CONSIDER ACTIONS WHICH CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT POLICY." THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO STATE THAT ALL ASPECTS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MUST BE INTEGRATED WITH DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

2. MORALES BERMUDEZ DID ALLUDE TO GOP ARMS PURCHASES BY STATING THAT PERU IS TAKING MILITARY PRECAUTIONS AS DO ALL COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD. "THESE PRECAUTIONS", HE ASSESSED, "CAN IN NO WAY BE CONFUSED WITH A POLICY OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ANY COUNTRY, BECAUSE THAT IS NOT PERUVIAN POLICY".

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3. ALSO ON DECEMBER 16 NAVY MINISTER PARODI DEPARTED FOR CHILE (REFTEL). CHILEAN AMBASSADOR BULNES TOLD REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT THAT PARODI'S VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PERU/CHILEAN FRIENDSHIP. HE STATED THAT THE VISIT, LIKE THAT OF CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTER BRADY HERE, WOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE ARMED

FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. BULNES ASSERTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE "ABSOLUTELY NORMAL" AND THAT SPECULATIONS AND RUMORS OF INCREASED TENSIONS WERE COMPLETELY LACKING IN FOUNDATION.

4. COMMENT: MORALES BERMUDEZ' CAEM SPEECH WAS DIRECTED AT THE FOREIGN AS WELL AS THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE IN AN EFFORT TO REASSURE PERU'S NEIGHBORS OF HER PEACEFUL INTENTIONS. HIS COMMENTS AND THOSE OF AMBASSADOR BULNES WERE INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE AND CURTAIL THE SPREAD OF "WAR SCARE RUMORS". ALSO HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD IS THE REPORTED RETURN OF PERUVIAN MILITARY ATTACHES TO QUITO. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY RETURNED AND THAT GOP AMBASSADOR MORELLI WILL SOON DO SO.
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